

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.     A complex for use as a therapeutic pharmaceutical, said complex comprising:  
            a ligand comprising at least one hydroxyalkyl phosphine donor group bound to a non-radioactive gold atom to form a stable gold-ligand complex.
- 10          2.     The complex according to claim 1, wherein said gold atom is a gold(I) compound.
3.     The complex according to claim 1 wherein said gold-ligand complex further includes a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 15          4.     The complex according to claim 1, wherein said gold-ligand complex further includes therapeutic agent.
5.     A method of treating cancer comprising the steps of:  
20           administering an effective amount of a complex comprising a ligand comprising at least one hydroxyalkyl phosphine group bound to a non-radioactive gold atom to form a stable gold-ligand complex.
6.     A method of preventing the metastasis of cancer comprising the  
25           steps of:  
            administering an effective amount of a complex comprising a ligand comprising at least one hydroxyalkyl phosphine group bound to a non-radioactive gold atom to form a stable gold-ligand complex.

7. A method of arresting cell growth comprising the steps of:  
administering an effective amount of a complex comprising a ligand  
comprising at least one hydroxyalkyl phosphine group bound to a non-  
5 radioactive gold atom to form a stable gold-ligand complex.